

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

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INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3019

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: BOUMEDIENE STATEMENTS CASTIGATED WHILE
MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA UNDERTAKE JOINT DIPLOMACY

1. SUMMARY: MOROCCANS HAVE LOST NO TIME IN REJECTING BOUMEDIENE'S
REMARKS ON SAHARA IN HIS JUNE 19 STATE OF NATION SPEECH. SEMI-
OFFICIAL PRESS FALLED ON HIM TO STAY OUT OF MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN
AFFAIRS AND TERMED HIS POSITION A CHALLENGE WHICH MOROCCO PRE-
PARED TO ACCEPT. OPPOSITION PRESS ALSO INCENSED. ON DIPLOMATIC
FRONT, GOM ANNOUNCED THAT MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA WILL SEND THEIR
FOREIGN MINISTERS ON JOINT AFRICAN MISSION TO EXPLAIN "COMMON
ATTITUDE" ON SAHARA PROBLEM. MEANWHILE, FLN HAS INVITED
MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN POLITICAL PARTIES TO ALGIERS FOR
SAHARA TALKS, AN INVITATION UNLIKELY TO BE TAKEN UP HERE.

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OPPOSITION PAPER REPORTS ANOTHER GOM SPONSORED GUERRILLA

INCIDENT IN THE COLONY. END SUMMARY

2. BOUMEDIENE CASTIGATED. GOM REACTED QUICKLY, "WITH SADNESS AND BITTERNESS", TO BOUMEDIENE'S JUNE 19 SAHARA STATEMENTS (ALGIERS 1414). LONG SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS EDITORIAL JUNE 21 REJECTED RIGHT OF ALGERIANS TO SPEAK FOR SAHARANS ON SELF-DETERMINATION, CALLED ON BOUMEDIENE TO SAY OUT OF PURELY MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN AFFAIRS AND REBUTTED HIS CONTENTION THAT ALGERIA HAS HAD MAJOR ROLE IN STIMULATING DECOLONIZATION OF SAHARA. ALGERIAN DECLARATION THAT IT HAS NO TERRITORIAL INTEREST IN SAHARA, EDITORIAL MAINTAINED, IS ONLY A PLOY WHEREBY ALGERIA TRY IO TO MAKE CONCESSIONS WHICH COST IT NOTHING. ALGERIA, EDITORIAL CONTENDED, HAS GAINED MORE FROM COLONIALISM THAN ANY OTHER MAGHREB STATE AND HAS BECOME SAHARAN POWER ONLY "OVER CORPSE OF MOROCCO." EDITORIAL ALSO ASSERTED BOUMEDIENE'S POSITION IS TOTAL REJECTION OF STATEMENT MADE AT 1972 OAU CONFERENCE AFFIRMING ALGERIAN "SOLIDARITY WITH MOROCCO IN ITS STRUGGLE TO REESTABLISH ITS SOVEREIGNTY OVER ITS TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION." GOM POSITION ON SAHARA HAS NEVER CHANGED, AND "WE HAVE RIGHT TO ASK BOUMEDIENE WHAT IS THE NEW FACTOR WHICH HAS INTERVENED SINCE JUNE 1972." BOUMEDIENE HAS LAUNCHED "VERITABLE CHALLENGE" WHICH MOROCCO PREPARED TO ACCEPT, EDITORIAL CONCLUDED.

3. OPPOSITION PRESS, WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN SEIZED A NUMBER OF TIMES BECAUSE OF ATTACKS ON ALGERIAN ROLE IN SAHARA DISPUTE, ALSO LASHED OUT FOLLOWING BOUMEDIENE SPEECH. ISTIQLAL DAILY L'OPINION SAID ALGERIA IS OPPOSED TO "UNIFICATION OF MOROCCO" BECAUSE IT DOES NOT WISH TO ALLOW A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY TO BECOME A "POWER". ALGERIA'S INTEREST IN FUTURE OF MAURITANIAN-MOROCCAN BORDER, SAID L'OPINION, REFLECTS ITS VIEW OF "ADVENT OF PROCESS OF REUNIFICATION" OF TWO COUNTRIES AS A REAL DANGER TO ALGERIAN DOMINATION OF REGION. AL MOHARRIR, USFP DAILY, SAW BOUMEDIENE POSITION AS REACTION TO MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN REFUSAL TO YIELD TO ALGERIAN PRESSURE. PAPER CRITICIZED CONTINUING ALGERIAN ECONOMIC AND TERRITORIAL "EXPANSIONISM" AT MOROCCAN EXPENSE AND DETECTED SPANISH-ALGERIAN COMPLICITY OVER SAHARA. ONLY NEW THING IN BOUMEYUENE'S REMARKS

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WAS CLAIM THAT ALGERIA HAS HASTENED DECOLONIZATION PROCESS IN SAHARA, WHICH EXPLAINABLE IN TERMS OF ALGERIAN PRESSURE ON SPAIN FIRST TO INSIST ON SELF-DETERMINATION AND THEN TO SPRING MAY 23 ANNOUNCEMENT ON WITHDRAWAL. ALGERIAN CREATION OF F POLISARIO, FOR JOINT USE OF ALGIERS AND MADRID, PART OF THIS "LIQUIDATION OF COLONIALISM."

4. MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN JOINT DIPLOMACY. GOM ANNOUNCED

JUNE 22 THAT MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN FONMINS LARAKI AND OULD MOUKNASS WILL UNDERTAKE JOINT MISSION TO PRESENT AND CLARIFY "COMMON POSITION" ON SAHARA TO CERTAIN UNSPECIFIED AFRICAN NATIONS. LARAKI LEFT MOROCCO FOR PARTS UNKNOWN JUNE 22.

5. ALGERIAN APPEAL TO MOROCCAN OPPOSITION. ANOMALOUS FLN APPROACH TO UNFP (CASABLANCA 444 AND 456) HAS ENTERED NEW STAGE, ACCORDING TO AFP REPORT (VIA APS) PUBLISHED IN SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS HERE WITHOUT COMMENT JUNE 23. (RADIO ALGERIA'S VERSION IN FBIS LONDON'S R222334Z JUNE 75 WAS CLOSELY PARALLELED.) FLN NOW CALLING FOR NO-STRINGS, OPEN TALKS IN ALGIERS AMONG MEMBERS OF FLN, UNFP, ISTIQLAL AND MAURITANIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY. OBJECT OF TALKS WOULD BE TO "REVEAL ABSENCE OF DISAGREEMENT, ATTENUATE SHARPNESS OF APPROACHES" AND, HOPEFULLY, TO LEAD TO FRUITFUL DIALOGUE. FLN SALUTED "HAPPY INITIATIVE" OF UNFP LEADER ABDALLAH'S LETTER, DESPITE ITS "RESERVE" ON CERTAIN PASSAGES IN THE LETTER.

6. NEW GUERRILLA INCIDENT. L'OPINION, CITING SPANISH NEWS AGENCY CIFRA, CLAIMS THAT 25 GOM-SPONSORED FRONT FOR LIBERATION AND UNITY (FLU) COMMANDOS ATTACKED A SPANISH FRONTIER POST JUNE 21. PAPER DENIED CIFRA REPORT THAT "MOROCCAN SOLDIERS" WERE INVOLVED, BUT OFFERED NO DETAILS ON INCIDENT, FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF SINCE MID-JUNE.

7. COMMENT: BOUMEDIENE'S REMARKS HAVE OBVIOUSLY GONE DOWN HARD IN RABAT AND GOM CERTAIN TO VIEW, AND RESENT, BIZARRE FLN PROPOSAL TO MOROCCAN OPPOSITION PARTIES AS ATTEMPT TO END-RUN KING AND FRACTURE PALACE-OPPOSITION SOLIDARITY ON SAHARA. OPPOSITION NOT LIKELY TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO INVITATION ON ITS OWN STICK NOR TO ADMIT ERROR IN ITS STRONGLY HOSTILE VIEWS ON ALGERIAN POSITION.

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8. MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN MISSION TO AFRICANS, WITH NEW REFERENCE TO COMMON POSITION ON SAHARA, STRIKES US AS DEFENSIVE TACTIC TO SET ASIDE ALGERIAN OBJECTIONS TO ANY DEAL THE TWO MAY HAVE WORKED OUT ON FUTURE OF COLONY. ALGERIAN EMBASSY HERE, FURTHERMORE, TELLS US ALGERIAN DELEGATION WAS ABLE TO DOMINATE DISCUSSION OF SAHARA AT RECENT OAU MEETING IN RABAT, IN WHICH CASE GOM-GIRM MISSION MAY BE TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR LOST GROUND.
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